

CLAIM LISTING

1-38 Canceled

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein the base element is formed as a ring shape.

40. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 51 wherein the force-applying element is arranged within the base element and **preferably** defines a circular ring-shaped clamping region.

41.. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein the force-applying element is arranged within the base element and is formed as a slotted ring.

42. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein the pairs of wall sections each lie in a plane and are closely adjacent.

43. Canceled

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein an attachment region, which is connected to the corresponding force-applying element or which forms the corresponding force-applying element, is provided on each end region of the wall sections, and wherein

1 a joining region of the wall elements forms another attachment region, which is
2 connected to the base element or forms the base element.

3

4 45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein two ring-shaped sealing elements,
5 which form a common pressure chamber for the two wall sections, are provided between
6 the wall elements, wherein the ring-shaped sealing elements are held preferably in a
7 sealed manner between attachment regions of the wall elements.

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9 46. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein a tubular ring element, which
10 forms a common pressure chamber for the two wall sections, is provided between the
11 bending regions of the wall elements.

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13 47. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein at least one wall element is made
14 from a stack of several partial wall elements.

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16 48. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein the base element is formed as an
17 essentially closed, two-part housing, in which the wall elements are received, wherein
18 inner wall sections of the housing limit a maximum bending of the bending regions of the
19 wall sections.

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21 49. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 48 wherein the force-applying element is
22 ring-shaped and is also held in the housing.

1 50. (Currently Amended) A clamping and/or braking device including:

2 (a) a base element and a force-applying element, by means of which the generated
3 clamping and/or braking forces can be transferred to an object, as well as two
4 adjacent wall sections, which each apply force with an end region onto the base
5 element and the force-applying element,

6 (b) wherein the two adjacent wall sections define an essentially sealed pressure
7 chamber that can be pressurized with pressure or negative pressure,

8 (c) wherein the two wall sections each have a bending region, which is resistant to
9 tensile force and nevertheless can be bent elastically so that the bending regions
10 form an elastic element between the base element and the force-applying element,
11 and

12 (d) in the unpressurized built-in state of the clamping and/or braking device, the two
13 wall sections exert a predetermined clamping and/or braking force on the object
14 by means of the force-applying element,

15 (e) wherein the two wall sections and their bending regions are shaped and
16 dimensioned, so that from an initial position of the pressure chamber a first
17 pressure applied in the pressure chamber results in an increase in the curvature of
18 the bending regions and reduces the clamping and/or braking forces transferred by
19 the force-applying element to the object, or so that from the initial position of the
20 pressure chamber a second pressure applied in the pressure chamber results in a
21 decrease in the curvature of the bending regions and increases the clamping and/or

braking forces transferred by the force-applying element to the object and wherein the second pressure is opposite to the first pressure, and

(f) wherein the two wall sections are formed by two wall elements, each wall element comprising a ring-shaped, radially slotted plate, and wherein the bending regions are formed at least in the wall element regions between the slots.

51. (Previously Presented) A clamping and/or braking device including:

(a) a base element, which is connected rigidly by means of two adjacent wall sections to a force-applying element, by means of which the generated clamping and/or braking forces can be transferred to an object.

(b) wherein the two adjacent wall sections define an essentially sealed pressure chamber that can be pressurized with positive pressure or negative pressure.

(c) wherein the two wall sections each have a bending region, which is resistant to tensile force and nevertheless can be bent elastically so that the bending regions form an elastic element between the base element and the force-applying element

(d) wherein in the unpressurized built-in state of the clamping and/or braking device, the two wall sections exert a predetermined clamping and/or braking force on the object by means of the force-applying element.

(e) wherein the two wall sections and their bending regions are shaped and dimensioned so that from an initial position of the pressure chamber a first pressure applied in the pressure chamber results in an increase in the curvature of the bending regions and reduces the clamping and/or braking forces transferred by

the force-applying element to the object, or so that from the initial position of the pressure chamber a second pressure applied in the pressure chamber results in a decrease in the curvature of the bending regions and increases the clamping and/or braking forces transferred by the force-applying element to the object, and wherein the second pressure is opposite to the first pressure, and

(f) wherein the two wall sections are formed by two wall elements, each wall element formed as a ring-shaped, radially slotted plate, and wherein the bending regions are formed at least in the wall element regions between the slots.

10 52. (New) The device of claim 51 wherein at least one additional force-applying element is
11 connected to the base element by two additional wall sections formed by the two wall
12 elements.

13
14 53. (New) The device of claim 50 wherein at least one additional force-applying element is
15 acted upon by two additional wall sections to transfer clamping and/or braking forces to
16 the object, the two additional wall sections being formed by the two wall elements.